

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:724

ANSWERED ON:03.03.2008

PURCHASE OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES BY PRIVATE COMPANIES

Dhanaraju Dr. K.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some companies have started bulk purchase of seasonal fruits and vegetables from various parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the orchards in the country have been taken on lease by these companies;
- (d) if so, the details thereof indicating the periods of this lease;
- (e) whether this has resulted in shortage of good quality fruits and vegetables and consequent rise in their prices in the domestic market; and
- (f) the steps being taken by Government to control this crisis of non-availability of good quality fruits throughout the year in the local market for the common man?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): State Governments have been requested by the Central Government for amending their State Agricultural Produce Market Committees (APMC) Regulation Acts to facilitate direct marketing so that retail suppliers/traders, processors, exporters etc. can purchase fruits and vegetables from the farmers directly. So far, the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Nagaland, NCT of Delhi, Orissa, Rajasthan, Sikkim and Tripura have made the suggested amendment in their respective Acts and reportedly the existing Act in Tamil Nadu also facilitates direct purchase of horticultural produce. In the States of Bihar, Kerala, Manipur and Union Territories of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu and Lakshadweep, there are no APMC Acts and, therefore, no restrictions. The direct marketing of fruits and vegetables is helping farmers in fetching better prices for their produce and through the efficient cold chain, it is making fruits and vegetables available to the consumers at reasonable prices even beyond the harvesting seasons of the concerned crops.

(c)&(d): The information relating to the leasing of orchards by the owners to the companies is not maintained by the Government.

(e)&(f): There is no shortage reported to the Government regarding supply of good quality fruits and vegetables and consequent rise in their prices in the domestic market.